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# Labor INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**AUGUST 1943**

## *Safety Experts in Drive to Cut Shipyard Accidents*

*The U. S. Department of Labor is cooperating with the Navy and the Maritime Commission to reduce disabling shipyard accidents that are taking a heavy toll of workers. Its committee of safety experts is giving special assistance to shipyard operators in implementing accident prevention programs.*

*In the Navy yards, where for years there has been a comprehensive safety program, the accident rate is only about half the rate found where ships are being built under private operation for the two agencies, according to Labor Department figures.*

*Disabling injuries in the privately operated yards involve a time loss of 1,368,000 working days annually, the figures show, with 32 such injuries per million employee-hours worked. Unsafe work practices were indicated in about 90 percent of the reported injuries and twice as many resulted from falling, sliding or flying objects as from falls from decks or scaffolding or faulty methods of lifting. Unsuitable clothing was identified as the most frequently recurring unsafe working condition.*

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**FRANCES PERKINS, Secretary**

# Offer Training Courses for Technical War Jobs

"Industry itself is responsible for not having more women trained in the sciences. During the last war we worked hard to get women interested in chemistry but when those girls came out of college the war was over. Would industry take them? Only as editors or librarians or teachers. The industrial field was closed and has been kept closed." This statement by Miss Bertha Nienburg, Assistant Director of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, explains the shortage of women with technical training. As at the production level, so at the scientific level, men have been drained away and women must fill their places.

Training women to meet the needs as rapidly as possible is being planned in realistic fashion. With the cooperation of the Bureau of Training of W. M. C. and the U. S. Office of Education, some 200 colleges and universities in all parts of the country are offering, tuition free, short-term courses under the Engineering, Science, and Management War Training program to women as well as men. More than nine-tenths of these courses are part-time, given outside working hours for the benefit of workers seeking to prepare themselves for positions of greater responsibility and usefulness. The typical full-time course comprises from 400 to 800 hours of intensive class and laboratory work. Such courses are intended primarily to fit those with little or no technical education or experience for work as assistants in laboratories, drafting rooms, engineering departments, and accounting and personnel offices. Nation-wide needs for certain types of training have been discovered and quite standardized courses designed to meet them. Some of these courses were offered simultaneously in different States.

Over 138,000 women had enrolled (including reenrollments) in E. S. M. W. T. courses, about a seventh of all such students, from October 1940 to March 1943. They were divided as follows: Engineering 89,000, production supervision 43,000, chemistry 5,200, physics 1,100. Details for cumulative enrollment are available through February 28, 1943. Women who had enrolled in various branches of engineering were, in round numbers, general engineering 31,000, mechanical 10,600, aeronautical 9,300, electrical 8,200, industrial 5,400, civil 4,800, basic science for engineers 2,900, all other 5,600. The one type of course taken by the largest number of women was engineering drawing and descriptive geometry, nearly 27,000. Just over 12,000 women enrolled for inspecting and testing, 6,200 for fundamentals, in various engineering fields. There were 7,200 enrolled in communications courses in electrical engineering, most of them, no doubt, for radio work. In the civil engineering group, 4,100 women enrolled for surveying and map making. The enrollment in these specific classes reflects in general the chief demands for women in technical work.

The supply of persons who have had 2 or more years of training in mathematics is diminishing rapidly. Because such training is an indispensable prerequisite to college-level work in engineering, E. S. M. W. T. has found it necessary to establish a qualifying course in mathematics. The course is intended to meet deficiencies in high-school training of women and older men who might otherwise succeed in engineering courses.

A number of companies have set up special training courses for carefully selected women and are paying all expenses and a salary while learning. A group of nearly 90 girls known as the "R. C. A. engineering cadets," recruited from 45 colleges in 18 States and the Radio Corporation of America's own plants, have begun 10 months of intensive technical study at Purdue University. The course includes engineering mathematics, radio manufacturing processes, radio and electronic circuits, electrical drafting, shop practices, and radio theory. The program grew out of the need for trained radio technicians. On graduation the cadets will be assigned to R. C. A.-Victor's 6 plants to work with engineers and war-contract executives.

An apprentice-training program for college graduates, started several years ago by Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, was later opened to women as a shortage of men trainees became imminent. Though college women who have majored in mathematics, chemistry, or physics are preferred, those lacking these specific majors but ranking high in scholastic achievement, or with other valuable professional experience, are considered.

The 6-month apprentice training course is broken into three major groups, each paid while learning: The first part is administered by the Engineering Department at Columbia University in a tuition-free, 9-week E. S. M. W. T. course entitled engineering aides. Next the girls enter a

4-week course at the Freeport State Aviation School. There they work with shop mechanics and take special courses in the various types of processes, and in principles of safety and good housekeeping as applied to the factory. The last 3 months are spent at the Grumman plant at Bethpage. Here work consists of first-hand shop experience supplemented by classroom instruction. The apprentice spends at least 1 week in each key department followed by a month of specialization in one department.

Other companies have similar training plans geared to their needs. Chance Vought Aircraft Division of United Aircraft Corporation set up a full year's college-level program in the elements of aeronautical engineering in cooperation with the New York University College of Engineering. This is open to girls who have completed their junior year at college. The Curtiss-Wright Corporation has established courses in seven different colleges where girls with at least a year and a half of college studies will get in 50 weeks the fundamentals of 2 years of college work. They will then go into exactly the same type of job as 4-year college graduates and will start in job training of about a year's duration. The goal set is to train some 800 women. These women are not expected to replace men now holding jobs but to fill some of the first job assignments so that men can be promoted to more technical jobs.

Pratt & Whitney (aircraft engines), Hamilton Standard Propeller, and Goodyear Aircraft Corporation also have arranged scholarships for women. On the west coast, Boeing Aircraft Co. and Consolidated Aircraft Corporation are paying women's expenses while taking a 3-month course in drafting and technical calculation at the School of Engineering at Oregon State College or Stanford University. General Motors Eastern Aircraft Division has been operating a training program for women in cooperation with Rutgers University. The 12-week course in drafting includes fundamentals of drafting, some mathematics, mechanics, strength of materials, and aircraft terminology. College graduates have been employed not only from the current classes but from alumnae groups. A similar class was started in Detroit in cooperation with five General Motors plants there. This group was selected from high-school classes and given nothing but training in drafting.

Many colleges are offering other special technical courses for women to meet the needs of the Government or of industry. The University of Michigan this spring offered women a concentrated 12-month course in petroleum geology designed to fit them for field work in the discovery programs of American oil companies. The number of women enrolled will depend on the number who are promised employment by the industry at the end of their training. A special 14-week course to train women as engineering aides to the Army Ordnance Department also was started this spring at the University of Michigan. The women receive base pay of $120 a month plus overtime, and a subsistence allowance during training.

Cooper Union Engineering School, New York City, has adopted a new admission policy under which women may take an abbreviated college engineering course to fit them for specific jobs in industry. The curriculum, covering 2⅔ years of study, has been divided into three blocks, each representing an important phase of engineering education—fundamental sciences, basic engineering subjects, and specialized engineering studies. A certificate will be issued to students leaving school at the end of any one of the three blocks. Thus they may enter industry before completing the full requirements for the bachelor's degree.

The U. S. Weather Bureau in cooperation with the Civil Aeronautics Administration has sponsored 9-month courses in meteorology for women airplane pilots in the following institutions: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Chicago, California Institute of Technology at Pasadena, University of California at Los Angeles, and New York University. Applicants must have, besides a pilot's license, a year of college physics and a year of college mathematics including calculus. The Government will pay the tuition and a maintenance allowance. On graduation, the women may take an examination for jobs as junior meteorologists.

The Army Air Force began asking for women last summer who could qualify as instructors in radio—about 5,000 would be accepted in the four large "radio universities" operated by A. A. F. The following requirements were set up: 6 months' full time or 1 year's night school experience teaching radio; 6 months' progressive technical experience as radio operator or engineer; a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering; a full year's progressive technical experience as a radio operator, a radio engineer, or in maintenance; an amateur's license, a 6-month technical radio course, or a successfully completed defense training course in radio. Applicants who partially meet these exacting requirements might be accepted as junior instructors and given 3 months of intensive training.

The Kansas City Art Institute planned a 16-week training course last fall to enable students with an art background to make blueprints, paint charts, and so on. Other institutions also are equipped to give such training.

Russell Sage College began an 8-month emergency course in August 1942 in food administration, designed for women seeking nutrition jobs where full dietetic training is not needed. Four short courses were organized by Pennsylvania State College to train home economists for Government positions as food inspectors, assistant dietitians, and supervisors in child-care centers. Many of



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the colleges and universities have included refresher courses for former home economists.

In the spring of 1942, Stevens Institute, Hoboken, N. J., offered the first emergency training course at college level to equip women for jobs as draftsmen, inspectors, supervisors, and engine testers. At about the same time, Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago began full-time E. S. M. W. T. courses exclusively for women in material inspection and testing, engineering drafting, and industrial chemistry. The courses ran 40 hours a week for 12 weeks. Ohio State University and University of California enrolled considerable numbers of women in E. S. M. W. T. courses in drafting in the spring of 1942 and were among the first to do so. Women entered engineering courses at Princeton in the summer of 1942. The work included photogrammetry and map making. In the fall, Drexel Institute of Technology and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute admitted women to engineering courses for the first time. The University of Cincinnati opened its cooperative engineering course to women in the spring of 1943, and in June the Virginia Polytechnic Institute opened a 13-week course in engineering fundamentals for women high-school graduates with at least 2 years of mathematics.

# Selecting Women for Industrial Jobs

The American war program must call more and more women for service on the industrial labor front. The number of women at work increased by nearly 20 percent in the first year of active participation in the war. Further large additions will take place during 1943. Though many of the women needed in war production have had no factory experience, they are well suited for certain kinds of important work and are eager to give their best service. Such service is possible, however, only if they are placed in the jobs for which they are best fitted and are advanced as they become ready for more difficult work. Haphazard hiring policies, like unsatisfactory conditions on the job, result in inefficient employees, excessive absenteeism, and higher labor turn-over.

Reports from field representatives of the Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, show that some plants have had these difficulties. Putting the right person in the right place at the start is a long step toward maximum output. Sincere interest in the employment of women and belief in their capabilities go far in developing a good program for the use of womanpower.

The first move in a sound placement program for women is selecting, on the basis of job analysis, the jobs suitable for them. Job analysis reveals not only the skills required but the physical demands of tasks in terms of strength, posture, and exposure to hazards. In the process of such analysis, engineering changes may be indicated that will lessen the physical demand of the job and increase operating efficiency.

Sizing up jobs for women also involves the consideration of factors in plant organization, such as degrees and types of responsibilities, attitudes of supervisors and fellow workers toward women, suitable plans for upgrading women workers, and adequate measures for protection of their health and safety.

Hand in hand with the importance of selecting jobs suitable for women goes the selection of the right woman for the particular job, a real problem with which industry must concern itself. Effective plans for matching the woman to the job go far toward securing maximum production. In general, desirable steps in any well-rounded selection program include: (1) Making sure the application blanks are adequate; (2) planning for a series of interviews; and (3) wherever possible providing tests specifically related to the job. Every plant should have competent persons to conduct these hiring procedures. Good selection standards manned by competent personnel result in better adjusted and more efficient workers.

The interview probably is the most important of the procedures employed in personnel selection. According to personnel authorities, it serves three basic functions: Securing information, giving information, and establishing friendly relations. These functions usually are performed in not one but a series of interviews, of which the most important general types are the preliminary, the selection, and the departmental.

The success of the interview as a part of any selection program depends on the general competence of the interviewers. Recognition of this fact makes it imperative that the utmost consideration be given to the proper selection of the persons doing this work. It cannot be emphasized too frequently that the best results can be secured only when the interviewing at every stage is done by personnel that can give the woman interviewed confidence that they believe in women's capabilities.

A carefully drawn application blank goes far in simplifying the selection procedure. In a minimum of time it should furnish the interviewer with valuable information concerning the applicant. Only information determined by job analysis to be relevant to the individual's suitability for the job should be asked for. The answers should be checked for accuracy.

Tests must not be thought of as substitutes but only as aids to the procedures in a personnel-

selection program. They must be properly tailored to the job, and administered and interpreted by competent personnel. If care is taken on these points, tests should be particularly valuable at the present time as aids in the recruitment of women workers for war production.

For successful selection of women for war-industry jobs, the Women's Bureau recommends:

1. Prior to selecting women for the jobs, a careful analysis of the plant should be made to determine:
   *a*. Which jobs are suitable for women.
   *b*. Which jobs can be made suitable for women.
   *c*. What changes are necessary in conditions surrounding the job, as for example in height of seats or benches, in weight of machine parts or of products to be handled, in installation of mechanical lifts, and so forth.
2. The persons who are to select women should have the following qualifications:
   *a*. Detailed knowledge of the jobs to be filled and of conditions in the plant.
   *b*. General knowledge of the types of work for which women ordinarily are fitted.
   *c*. Interest in women and belief in their capabilities.
   *d*. Competence in interpreting such tests as may be used in selecting women.
   *e*. Freedom from personal prejudices, and ability to inspire confidence in the job seeker.
3. The procedures for selecting women should be carefully planned in advance, and may well include:
   *a*. Provision of simple and adequate application blanks.
   *b*. A series of interviews, with purposes as here described.
   *c*. Tests rigidly prepared to fit the specific job.

# City Building Construction Shows Increase

The value of building construction started in urban areas during June exceeded $100,000,000, representing a gain of 2 percent over the value for the previous month and is the largest total since February. The value of Federal building construction contracts awarded during June was 9 percent greater than in May and more than offset the slight decline in permit valuations for privately financed building construction.

Valuations of new nonresidential buildings started during June increased 37 percent over May. Similarly, valuations for additions and repairs rose 23 percent. In contrast, valuations for new residential structures dropped 23 percent from May to June, principally as a result of the 63 percent decrease in the value of public housing projects put under construction contract. Both new residential and new nonresidential privately financed building declined from the May total while additions, alterations, and repairs increased.

The dollar volume of building construction started during June was 55 percent less than during June 1942. Privately financed construction alone was only 20 percent less than in June 1942 while the value of Federally financed construction contracts was reduced by almost three-fourths. Although all classes of building construction, both Federal and private, shared in the decline, privately financed new residential construction and additions, alterations, and repairs suffered relatively little with declines of 4 and 8 percent, respectively.

One-half of all urban building construction started during June was located in the East North Central and Pacific Coast States, both areas of great war activity. Over half of all new construction, but only slightly over one-third of the value of additions, alterations, and repairs to existing structures were located in these States.

# Public Employment

The effect of the employment ceilings of the Bureau of the Budget may be clearly seen in the increase of employment in the Federal executive service in June 1943 of only 16,000. Not considering the post-Christmas declines occasioned by the release of temporary postal employees, this was the smallest gain since April 1940. Employees in the regular Federal services—executive, legislative, and judicial—totaled 3,116,000 at the end of June 1943 with 2,315,000, or 74 percent, in the War and Navy Departments and other war agencies. The total was 830,000 higher than in June 1942 and the war-agency employment was 892,000 higher.

In May 1943, women in full-time jobs in the Federal executive service amounted to 999,500, or 35 percent of all full-time employees. In June 1941, the last date prior to the war that data were available, women numbered 266,000 or 20 percent of all employees in the Federal executive service. In May 1943, 54 percent of the women were in the War Department, 15 percent in the Navy Department, 11 percent in war-emergency agencies (WPB, OPA, etc.) and 20 percent in other agencies. Over three-fifths of the full-time employees of war-emergency agencies were women and two-fifths of those of the War Department. Women constituted approximately a fourth of the full-time employees in the Navy Department and other agencies.

Although more workers were added on the construction of naval and other vessels and on public housing projects during June 1943, other types of construction projects financed wholly or partially from Federal funds, including nonresidential building, public roads, airport construction, and river, harbor, and flood control, required fewer workers and brought the employment on all Federally financed construction projects to 2,444,000, or 7,000 lower than in May 1943. Personnel on these projects, however, was 407,000 higher than in June a year ago.

The NYA and CCC were liquidated by legislative action effective as of the end of June 1943, and no personnel reports were therefore received for June. Although all operations of the WPA in continental United States were abolished as of June 30, provision was made for the continuance of 40,000 project workers in Puerto Rico and 1,000 in the Virgin Islands until November. Most of the 42,400 WPA workers in June 1943 were on these islands.

*Employment and pay rolls in regular Federal services, construction, shipbuilding and repair projects financed wholly or partially from Federal funds, and on other Federal programs, June 1943*

[Preliminary]

| Service or program | Employment | Pay rolls |
|---|---|---|
| Regular Federal services: | | |
| Executive | 3,106,800 | $571,922,000 |
| War agencies | 2,315,400 | 414,552,000 |
| Other | 791,400 | 157,370,000 |
| Legislative | 6,200 | 1,500,000 |
| Judicial | 2,600 | 753,000 |
| Construction, shipbuilding, and repair: | | |
| Financed from regular Federal appropriations | 2,131,000 | 493,096,000 |
| Public housing | 91,300 | 15,283,000 |
| War public works | 11,500 | 1,643,000 |
| Reconstruction Finance Corporation | 209,700 | 40,409,000 |
| Other Federal programs: | | |
| National Youth Administration | (1) | (1) |
| Work Projects Administration | 42,400 | (1) |
| Civilian Conservation Corps | (1) | (1) |

[1] Data not available because program was in process of liquidation.

# Employment and Weekly Pay Rolls

The total number of employees in nonagricultural establishments in June 1943 was 38,328,000, which was 1,663,000 more than a year ago, and about 66,000 more than in May. These figures do not include proprietors of unincorporated businesses, self-employed persons, unpaid family workers, domestics employed in private homes, public emergency employees, and personnel in the armed forces. The gain over the month reflects the addition of almost 100,000 workers to the manufacturing division and 62,000 to the transportation and public utilities division. The only sizeable decline, 99,000 employees, was in construction and was brought about by the completion of many Federal construction contracts.

## MANUFACTURING

There were 13,778,000 wage earners employed in all manufacturing industries. Nearly 8 million, or 58 percent, were in industries closely associated with the production of munitions—generally the metal working industries, chemical, and rubber. A year ago 51 percent of manufacturing wage earners were in these industries. In June 1939 the ratio was 36 percent.

Among the durable-goods groups the largest increase over the month was in the transportation equipment group due to continued expansion in aircraft and shipbuilding. Among the nondurable

groups, only the food group showed a sizeable increase in employment over the month. Seasonal increases in canning, the beverage industries, baking, and slaughtering and meat packing raised employment in the food group to 951,000 a little more than 4 percent above May.

Weekly earnings in all manufacturing industries averaged $43.08 in May 1943 as compared with $42.48 in April 1943 and $35.82 in May 1942. The weekly earnings in both the durable and nondurable groups were 1½ percent above April 1943.

## NONMANUFACTURING

Both the anthracite and bituminous coal mining industries reported declines in employment in June due to the strike situation. Employment in both these industries was below the level in June 1942. The total number of wage earners employed in both coal mining industries in June was almost 453,000.

*Estimated number of wage earners and average weekly earnings in manufacturing industries by major industry groups (adjusted to Bureau of Employment Security final data for 1941 and preliminary data for the second quarter of 1942*

| Industry group | Estimated number of wage earners (thousands) | | | Average weekly earnings | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | June 1943 (preliminary) | May 1943 | June 1942 | May 1943 | April 1943 | May 1942 |
| **ALL MANUFACTURING** | **13,778** | **13,694** | **12,282** | **$43.08** | **$42.48** | **$35.82** |
| *Durable goods* | *8,212* | *8,159* | *6,823* | *$49.35* | *$48.63* | *$41.81* |
| Iron and steel and their products | 1,715 | 1,718 | 1,599 | $47.76 | $46.98 | $40.15 |
| Electrical machinery | 699 | 695 | 528 | $45.60 | $45.12 | $41.21 |
| Machinery, except electrical | 1,250 | 1,243 | 1,078 | $52.54 | $52.14 | $46.98 |
| Transportation equipment, except automobiles | 2,270 | 2,241 | 1,443 | $56.29 | $55.88 | $51.02 |
| Automobiles | 667 | 660 | 485 | $57.00 | $55.77 | $51.52 |
| Nonferrous metals and their products | 414 | 410 | 378 | $47.77 | $46.91 | $39.47 |
| Lumber and timber basic products | 481 | 479 | 555 | $32.24 | $30.82 | $25.79 |
| Furniture and finished lumber products | 355 | 356 | 381 | $32.66 | $32.06 | $27.06 |
| Stone, clay and glass, and products | 361 | 357 | 376 | $36.21 | $35.57 | $30.86 |
| *Nondurable goods* | *5,566* | *5,535* | *5,459* | *$33.99* | *$33.50* | *$28.55* |
| Textile mill products and other fiber manufactures | 1,229 | 1,239 | 1,298 | $27.76 | $27.52 | $23.74 |
| Apparel and other finished textile products | 853 | 863 | 873 | $26.37 | $27.22 | $22.82 |
| Leather and leather products | 333 | 337 | 377 | $30.03 | $29.69 | $26.06 |
| Food and kindred products | 951 | 914 | 947 | $35.63 | $34.12 | $29.65 |
| Tobacco manufactures | 89 | 89 | 92 | $25.60 | $25.11 | $21.53 |
| Paper and allied products | 315 | 312 | 312 | $36.21 | $35.79 | $30.24 |
| Printing, publishing and allied industries | 333 | 329 | 325 | $39.78 | $39.20 | $36.04 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 742 | 737 | 600 | $41.36 | $40.86 | $36.12 |
| Products of petroleum and coal | 125 | 124 | 128 | $49.93 | $48.33 | $39.92 |
| Rubber products | 188 | 186 | 116 | $45.63 | $45.01 | $37.76 |
| Miscellaneous industries | 408 | 405 | 361 | $40.65 | $40.18 | $33.79 |

*Estimated number of wage earners and average weekly earnings in selected nonmanufacturing industries*

| Industry | Estimated number of wage earners (thousands) | | | Average weekly earnings | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | June 1943 (Preliminary) | May 1943 | June 1942 | May 1943 | April 1943 | May 1942 |
| Anthracite mining | 71.6 | 72.3 | 74.9 | $37.39 | $43.22 | $35.05 |
| Bituminous-coal mining | 381 | 383 | 437 | $39.51 | $41.39 | $34.55 |
| Metalliferous mining | 98.3 | 97.8 | 110 | $43.43 | $42.57 | $38.34 |
| Iron | 35.0 | 33.4 | 32.1 | $40.92 | $39.15 | $38.43 |
| Copper | 30.9 | 31.4 | 32.0 | $47.03 | $45.41 | $39.33 |
| Lead and zinc | 18.8 | 18.9 | 19.9 | $42.62 | $42.66 | $38.45 |
| Gold and silver | 7.0 | 7.5 | 19.4 | $41.51 | $39.66 | $35.42 |
| Miscellaneous | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.5 | $46.21 | $45.62 | $38.18 |
| Hotels (including salaried employees) | 344 | 341 | 335 | $19.75 | $19.46 | $17.14 |
| Power laundries | 270 | 267 | 271 | $23.87 | $23.48 | $20.98 |
| Dyeing and cleaning | 86.5 | 85.2 | 87.2 | $28.93 | $28.87 | $24.85 |

# The Cost of Living in June 1943

With other living costs relatively stable, a drop in fresh vegetable and butter prices cut the cost of living for city workers by 0.2 percent in the month ending June 15—the first month to show a reduction since a year before Pearl Harbor. This small decrease compares with increases of 0.8 percent over the previous month. 1.1 percent for the month ending April 15, and 1.5 percent for the month ending March 15.

In mid-June, the cost of living index stood at 124.8 percent of the 1935–39 average, 23.8 percent above January 1941, base date of the "Little Steel" formula and 7.6 percent above May 1942, when the OPA initiated retail price control. Food prices, however, are 45 percent above January 1941 and over 16 percent above the May 1942 level.

Led by potatoes, which dropped 9 percent, against a usual slight rise at this time of the year, fresh vegetables showed more-than-seasonal declines of 8 to 13 percent from their previous abnormal levels as new crops came onto the market and as victory gardens began to produce. Butter dropped about 5 cents a pound to a national average of 50½ cents a pound under the subsidy program. Butter and potatoes together make up about 9 percent of the cost of food and about 4 percent of the total cost of living in the monthly index compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Victory gardens will affect the level of the cost of living index only as they lower commercial prices; no account can be taken in the index of the drop in food costs during the summer for many millions of families who grow their own vegetables. The index cannot reflect the added effort and inconvenience of wartime living, but it is designed to measure changes in retail prices of goods and services currently purchased by families of city wage earners and clerical workers.

Food prices as a whole, making up over 40 percent of the index, declined 0.8 percent because of lower prices for fresh vegetables and butter. Prices of canned fruits and vegetables declined 0.5 percent as OPA established local dollar and cents ceilings in many large cities in May. Eggs, apples, and oranges showed the chief increases because of seasonal reductions in supply. Prices of meats were generally unchanged, slight increases for beef, lamb, and fish being balanced by slight decreases for pork and chickens. Most costs making up the other 60 percent of the index remained fairly stable. Declines ranging from less than 1 percent to almost 12 percent were reported for rayon hose, while there were increases in the cost of cotton underwear and pajamas because of the disappearance of lower-priced lines. Prices of summer clothing were higher than last June. Men's shirts made in accordance with WPB limitation orders came onto the market slightly below the May price.

Miscellaneous goods and services, such as medical care, movies, and beauty and barbershop services, continued to increase. Cost of automobile collision insurance was reduced because of the increasing age of cars on the road.

Housefurnishings, fuel prices, and gas and electricity rates were generally stable, and rents were reported practically unchanged from the March levels.

*Cost of living in 21 Large Cities*

| Area and city | Index as of June 15 1943 1935–39=100 | Percent of change from— | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | May 15, 1943 to June 15, 1943 | June 15, 1942 to June 15, 1943 | Aug. 15, 1939 to June 15, 1943 |
| **Average: Large cities** | 124.8 | −0.2 | +7.2 | +26.6 |
| North Atlantic: | | | | |
| Boston | 121.8 | −0.4 | +6.9 | +25.4 |
| Buffalo | 127.8 | −.8 | +5.7 | +29.7 |
| New York | 123.8 | −.3 | +8.4 | +25.1 |
| Philadelphia | 123.8 | −.8 | +7.7 | +26.6 |
| Pittsburgh | 124.9 | 0 | +6.8 | +26.9 |
| South Atlantic: | | | | |
| Baltimore | 128.1 | −.1 | +7.5 | +29.8 |
| Savannah | 132.3 | +.3 | +10.1 | +33.2 |
| Washington, D.C | 123.8 | +.1 | +7.2 | +25.6 |
| North Central: | | | | |
| Chicago | 124.1 | −.3 | +6.7 | +25.7 |
| Cincinnati | 124.3 | +.4 | +6.4 | +27.7 |
| Cleveland | 129.2 | +.9 | +8.1 | +29.2 |
| Detroit | 126.8 | −.4 | +7.0 | +28.7 |
| Kansas City | 121.9 | −.5 | +6.8 | +23.6 |
| Minneapolis | 121.9 | +.1 | +5.2 | +22.3 |
| St. Louis | 123.6 | −.3 | +6.0 | +26.0 |
| South Central: | | | | |
| Birmingham | 126.4 | +.5 | +7.9 | +28.3 |
| Houston | 123.2 | −1.0 | +6.5 | +22.3 |
| Western: | | | | |
| Denver | 123.5 | −.7 | +6.7 | +25.3 |
| Los Angeles | 126.3 | +.4 | +6.5 | +25.7 |
| San Francisco | 128.7 | +.5 | +9.2 | +29.6 |
| Seattle | 128.1 | −1.1 | +7.5 | +27.7 |

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943

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| +33. 2 |
| +25. 6 |
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